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SERVICE DATE – FEBRUARY 20, 2002

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 34086 (Sub-No. 1)

THE COLUMBIA AND COWLITZ RAILWAY COMPANY–TRACKAGE RIGHTS
EXEMPTION–THE BURLINGTON NORTHERN AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY

STB Finance Docket No. 34088 (Sub-No. 1)¹

THE COLUMBIA AND COWLITZ RAILWAY COMPANY–TRACKAGE RIGHTS
EXEMPTION–THE LONGVIEW SWITCHING COMPANY

Decided: February 14, 2002

By separate petitions filed on January 25, 2002, The Columbia and Cowlitz Railway Company (CLC), The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF), and The Longview Switching Company (LSC) request that the Board extend the expiration dates of the trackage rights arrangements (arrangements) exempted in The Columbia and Cowlitz Railway Company–Trackage Rights Exemption–The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company, STB Finance Docket No. 34086 (STB served Sept. 14, 2001),² and in The Columbia and Cowlitz Railway Company–Trackage Rights Exemption–The Longview Switching Company, STB Finance Docket No. 34088 (STB served Sept. 14, 2002).³ We will grant the petitions and extend the expiration dates of the arrangements to May 1, 2002.⁴

¹ The two proceedings are not consolidated, but the petitions in these proceedings are being handled in one decision for administrative convenience.

² In STB Finance Docket No. 34086, CLC acquired temporary overhead trackage rights from BNSF over BNSF's line between Rocky Point, WA (BNSF milepost 95.8), and Longview, WA (BNSF milepost 101.1).

³ In STB Finance Docket No. 34088, CLC acquired temporary overhead trackage rights over LSC's line between Columbia Junction, WA, and Longview Junction.

⁴ By separate decisions served on November 20, 2001, in STB Finance Docket Nos. 34086 (Sub-No. 1) and 34088 (Sub-No. 1) (November decisions), the Board granted CLC's petitions for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502 to permit CLC's arrangements to expire on
(continued...)

As noted in the November decisions, on July 2, 2001, CLC suffered a trestle fire, which severed CLC's connection between Columbia Junction and Rocky Point. The arrangements exempted in STB Finance Docket Nos. 34086 and 34088 enabled CLC to acquire overhead trackage rights over BNSF's and LSC's lines and provided CLC with an alternate route that allowed it to begin repairs on its own line. CLC expected its repairs to conclude by March 1, 2002.

CLC now states that its repairs will not conclude on March 1, 2002, as it originally anticipated and requests that the expiration dates of the arrangements be extended to May 1, 2002. CLC's request is reasonable. We will grant the petitions and extend the expiration dates of the arrangements exempted in STB Finance Docket Nos. 34086 and 34088 to May 1, 2002.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The expiration dates of the trackage rights arrangements exempted in STB Finance Docket Nos. 34086 and 34088 are extended to May 1, 2002.

2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Burkes.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary

⁴(...continued)
March 1, 2002.